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Official Diary

Friday, 16 January 1953

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25X1A9a 1. At the request of [REDACTED] cleared with the Director the giving of a talk by [REDACTED] to the student body of Notre Dame. I arranged to furnish [REDACTED] with the appropriate basic material.

2. There was a brief discussion of the import of the Soviet doctors' trial. DCI indicated belief that there were three major possibilities:

a. There had, at this time, not been much discussion in Moscow respecting the death of Zhdanov, and Stalin may have determined to settle this once and for all.

b. It may have been based on anti-semitic considerations.

c. It may reflect a power struggle within the Politbureau.

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Later in the day I had extended discussions on this subject with [REDACTED]. I emphasized to [REDACTED] the possibility that capital might be made of this activity in view of the connection between Beriya and the Atomic Energy Program as well as the fact that many of the Soviet scientists were Jewish. I undertook to have reports on this subject sent directly to [REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] of the NSC staff phoned and after noting my recent comment that the NSC codification of policy did not include any contributions of State, queried whether this subject might be taken up with DCI. I indicated to [REDACTED] that such action would be premature.

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25X1A9a 4. [REDACTED] phoned from New York to express the view that [REDACTED] might be available to succeed General Magruder in his USCIB job "if his arm were twisted enough."

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5. [REDACTED] requested any written reaction which my offices might have prepared on certain think pieces respecting Sino-Soviet relations. I undertook to get same for him. I also undertook to have prepared, and sent to him, an FBIS study on Soviet treatment of the doctors' trial theme. Later requested this latest study from [REDACTED] and mentioned that a copy should be sent directly to [REDACTED]. I have requested [REDACTED] to dig out the other paper and send it to [REDACTED]

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25X1A9a 6. Had extended discussions with Secretary Finletter, General Samford, [REDACTED] respecting the "B" project. We undertook to review this project in more detail over the weekend.

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7. [REDACTED] phoned respecting the reply he should make as to a Time Magazine inquiry on our "thinking" on the Soviet doctors' trial and I instructed him to make "no comment".

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